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NOTES TO YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE

January 1942

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January 9, 1942

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. William L. Langer

FROM: G. T. Robinson

SUBJECT: Notes on Yugoslavia and Greece

In accordance with your request, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Vucinich have prepared brief notes on the topics named below. These notes are forwarded herewith.

YUGOSLAVIA

Trade Agreements

Chrome Production

GREECE

Population Movements Secret
Rationing Secret
Black Markets Secret
Corinth Canal
Aircraft Fuel Secret

G. T. Robinson

Attachments - 7

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YUGOSLAVIA

TRADE AGREEMENTS

A. CROATIA

"Independent" Croatia has a somewhat more definite status than other parts of former Yugoslavia, and has even been able to conclude separate commercial agreements with its Axis allies.

Part of the Treaty of Commerce between Yugoslavia and Hungary, concluded on July 24, 1926, remains in force between Hungary and Croatia. On June 14, 1941, a provisional commercial agreement was made between them. It provided that for an export of the following articles from Croatia to Hungary: iron ore (60,000 metric tons), caustic soda, carbonate of sodium, calcium carbide, calcium cyanamide, firewood (25,000 metric tons), soft wood lumber, (3,500 metric tons), charcoal, brown coal and tannic extracts. Hungary was to supply Croatia with these products: seed, millet, buckwheat, breeding animals, 5,000 fat pigs, industrial products, agricultural and other types of machinery, and fertilizer. 1/

The Croat-Magyar Treaty of Commerce was to go into effect as soon as the rate of exchange was established. Hungarians, however, foresaw one disadvantage: Hungary had previously imported more from the regions of Croatia, as now constituted, than she exported to these regions.

1/. Neue Zürcher Zeitung, July 14, 1941, Fernausgabe, Handelsteil.

In 1940 Hungarian exports to those regions amounted to 6-7,000,000 pengos, while the Hungarian imports from this source amounted to 16,000,000 pengos. 1/ It was believed that the present agreement would permit an increase in the amount of trade, and that once Hungarian industrial goods were admitted into Croatia, the trade balance between the two states would be equalized. A favorable harvest in Hungary would make possible shipments of grain to Croatia. 2/

An agreement between Croatia and Italy provides that the aluminum works at Lozovac (near Sibenik in Dalmatia, now under Italian control) will send a large part of its output to Croatia, which is to supply Lozovac with bauxite. Conversely, part of the output of the match factories in Travnik (now in Croatia) and Urpovsko is to be assigned to the Dalmatian regions under Italian control. The cigarette-paper factory in Susak (now under Italian control) is to operate under the Croat Tobacco Monopoly Administration. 3/

On the basis of another agreement between Croatia and Italy, the former has been given the privilege of leasing a part of the port of Fiume for its transit trade. 4/

At the beginning of August a one-year commercial treaty wasconcluded between Rumania and Croatia. Croatia is to

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1/. N. Z. Z., July 14, 1941, Handelsteil.
2/. Ibid.
3/. N. Z. Z., July 29, 1941, Mittagsausgabe, Handelsteil.
4/. N. Z. Z., Aug. 6, 1941, Mittagsausgabe, Handelsteil. More detailed information on the Dalmatian economic resources, and the way Italy and Croatia will supplement each other, is given in an article entitled "Italiens dalmatische Interessen", Neues Wiener Tagblatt, May 24, 1941, p. 6.

supply Rumania with iron ore, magnesite, tannine, ferrosilicon, and railroad ties. Rumania, on the other hand, is to supply Croatia with 60,000 tons of oil and gasoline of all types. The amount of Rumanian exports to Croatia is established at four million (currency not specified), and the value of Croatian exports to Rumania was established at 40,000,000 kunas. Until other agreements are made, the old Yugoslav-Rumanian Treaty is to remain in force. 1/

Croatia has also succeeded in making a commercial agreement with Switzerland. This agreement went into effect on October 1, 1941, and will expire on September 30, 1942. Prior to its conclusion, commercial relations with Switzerland were determined on the basis of the old Yugoslav treaty of 1938. In view of the poor harvest in Croatia, Switzerland does not count on importing any grain. The tarrif rates were to remain as before. Clearing is to be similar to that between Hungary and Switzerland. The question of transportation is to be arranged at some later date. Each state is to ship 500 million kunas worth of goods to the other. The Croatian exports are to consist of the following: lumber, coal, game, poultry, eggs, fruit, wine, ammonia (ammoniak-soda), carbide, medicinal herbs, and small skins. The Swiss exports to Croatia are to consist of: cotton goods, artificial silk, tin goods, watches and clocks, machines, tools, instruments, pharmaceutical goods, wire, industrial chemicals, a certain num-

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1/. N. Z. Z., Sept. 1, 1941, Mittagsausgabe, Handelsteil. The Kuna is the new Croatian monetary unit.

ber of breeding animals, etc. 1/

The commercial relations between Bulgaria and Croatia have also been regulated. The rate of exchange is established at 61 kunas to 100 levas. This agreement provides for an exchange of goods on the basis of barter. 2/

A treaty of commerce between Croatia and France was also contemplated. This treaty was to provide for barter, the French furnishing a list of goods they could supply, and of those they wished to import from Croatia. 3/

Meanwhile, the commercial relations with Italy, already established, have been prolonged for an additional three months. For Dalmatia special concessions were to be secured. Other questions, such as credits, were to be settled by a special meeting to be held in October. 4/

A short item in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung announced that the provisional agreement between Berlin and Zagreb would terminate at the end of September, 1941; then, Hrvatski Narod stated new negotiations would begin by which Germany would be accorded reductions in tarrif. 5/

The first commercial treaty between Croatia, and Germany and the German-occupied regions, was signed on

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1/. N. Z. Z., Sept. 16, 1941, Handelsteil, Fernausgabe; Frankfurter Zeitung, Oct. 1, 1941, p. 5.
2/. Frankfurter Zeitung, Oct. 1, 1941, p. 5.
3/. Ibid.
4/. Ibid.
5/. N. Z. Z., Sept. 24, 1941, Mittagsausgabe, Handelsteil,

November 6, 1941. The treaty included veterinary, tariff and financial regulations. The treaty provided for an exchange of goods between Croatia on the one hand and Germany and the occupied regions on the other (the latter term included Serbia). Germany was to import 2,000,000 kilograms of tobacco, and was to help develop Croatian agriculture and resources. 1/

B. THE REST OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

The collapse of the Yugoslav armed forces was followed by the territorial break-up of Yugoslavia and the destruction of its existing economic organization. 2/

1. Serbia

There is no definite information available on the commercial arrangements between Serbia (formerly a province of Yugoslavia) and other Axis powers. Serbia is now under German military occupation, although there is a puppet government, under General Milan Nedić, former Minister of War. The extent of the occupation assessments and of inflation -- favored tools of Nazi economic exploitation -- is also not definitely known. 3/

Although from the available material it was not possible to find any specific commercial arrangements

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1/ Frankfurter Zeitung, Nov. 7, 1941, Nos. 569-570; Foreign Commerce Weekly, Nov. 8, 1941, p. 30 and p. 40.
2/ For previous treaties see "List of Commercial and Payments Agreements of Yugoslavia with other Countries, Excluding Latin America as of December 1941," 14 pp., O.I.C., Central Information Division, No. 6700.
3/ Jozo Tomasevich, "Economic Consequences of Nazi Agression in Yugoslavia", (Typewritten manuscript loaned by the Yugoslav Legation), 11, 21-22.

arrived at between Serbia and Germany, there is some information which indicates that the Nazi policy in relation to Serbia is to make Serbian economic life as a "complimentary part of a Great Reich economy".

2. Banat

The status of this province has not been clearly established. Some refer to it as a "no man's land", and others consider it a part of the present province of Serbia, and think that it is, like Serbia, under German military occupation. It is an agricultural area, and prior to the war it produced a considerable portion of all the Yugoslav agricultural products. 1/

3. Slovenia

This former Yugoslav province has been divided between Germany and Italy and nothing is known of any special trade arrangements between these two parts of Slovenia and the conqueror governments.

The Nazis are resolved to Germanize their portion of Slovenia. Part of their program is "the planned expulsion of about 200,000 Slovenes into Serbia to make place for German 'colonists'. Apparently two-thirds of them have already been sent away." 2/

It was reported in May that provisional economic arrangement between Croatia and Styria (Slovenia) would be

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1/ Nicholas Mirkovich, "Jugoslavia's Choice", Foreign Affairs, Oct. 1941, pp. 131-151; see also the map of partitioned Yugoslavia on page 148.
2/ Tomasevich, op. cit., p. 21.

negotiated, which would imply that German Slovenia has a degree of autonomy. 1/

4. Dalmatia

Italy received a section of Croatia, most of the Adriatic Islands, the Dalmatian coast between the Bay of Obrovac and a point just south of Split, and the region about Kotor. On August 23 it was reported that the balance of the Adriatic coast was also being taken over by Italy. There exists no accurate information on the economic arrangements between Italy and this area, but it seems logical to suppose that it falls completely into the domestic economic system of Italy. 2/

5. Montenegro

The exact status of Montenegro has not been established. It is at present under Italian military occupation. A National Assembly exists in Montenegro, created after considerable difficulty in collecting a group of Quislings. However, the guerrillas in this region are very efficient, and Italy has difficulty in controlling the situation. No substantial information on the commercial arrangements between Montenegro and other states has been secured.

6. Prekomurje, Medjumurje, Baranja and Backa.

These provinces have been seized by the Hungarians and are treated as parts of the Hungarian economic system.

1/ Negotiations were announced for May 27, 1941; Neue Wiener Tagblatt, May 22, 1941, p. 6.
2/ Mirkovich, op. cit., 148.

A special feature of the "new order", at least in the parts of Yugoslavia occupied by Hungary, has been the restoration of the feudal forms of landed property and the elimination of the great agrarian reforms. It is easily conceivable that this could also happen in other parts of Yugoslavia. 1/

7. South Serbia (Macedonia)

This province is completely under Bulgarian sovereignty. It is rich in agricultural and mineral resources. There is no available information as to the status of this province within Bulgaria, but it is almost certain that it has no power to make separate commercial arrangements with foreign states. 2/

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1/ Tomasevich, op. cit., p. 22
2/ N.Z.Z., Aug. 13, 1941, Fernausgabe, Handelsteil.

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YUGOSLAVIA

CHROME PRODUCTION

Chrome is found in considerable abundance in most of the Southeastern European regions. Of Germany's total imports of this metal in 1938, amounting to 176,406 tons, 52,585 tons came from Turkey, 13,975 tons from Greece, 12,695 tons from Yugoslavia, and 1,333 tons from Bulgaria. 1/ Italy has been developing Albanian chrome. The Germans believe that by the efficient utilization of all existing European resources it is possible to insure Europe's future supply of chrome ore without importing large quantities from overseas. 2/

Yugoslavia is rich in chrome. However, her deposits have never been fully exploited. According to Yugoslav official reports, the best ore deposits -- in quantity and quality -- are in the part of the Vardar Valley now occupied by Bulgaria. According to one report, "the ore extracted contains in some places as much as 60% chrome-protoxide". 3/ The official Bulgarian estimate of the reserves of chrome ore deposits in the Yugoslav territory acquired by Bulgaria is one million tons, and the areas in which it is found are located near Skoplje, Kumanovo, Valandovo, Radusa, Orase, Koranici and Jezerina. 4/

Chrome ore is also found in the Drina and Vrbas districts

1/ Herman Baum, "Die Metallbasis Europas", Der Wirtschaftsring, Feb. 28, 1941.
2/ Ibid.
3/ Yugoslavia. An Economic Survey. Published by the office of Foreign Trade, Belgrade, 1936, p. 129.
4/ Neue Zurcher Zeitung, Sept. 25, 1941, Abendausgabe, Handelsteil.

(now belonging to Croatia), and the Morava district (present Serbia). Smelting works for the manufacture of chrome did not exist in Yugoslavia before the present war; the entire output was exported and the volume of production, therefore, depended entirely upon foreign demand. 1/

The production of chrome ore in Yugoslavia rose from 53,027 tons in 1935 to 58,789 tons in 1938. 2/

The following table shows the amount exported in 1936, 1937, and 1938, as well as the names of producers and exporters.

YUGOSLAV CHROME EXPORTS

	1936		1937		1938		
	M.Tons	1000 dinars	M.Tons	1000 dinars	M.Tons	1000 dinars	
Destination	23,781	14,100	24,749	16,142	23,310	15,370	
Austria	8,375	5,674	9,977	7,263	1,619	1,198	
Poland	1,095	599	135	81	90	56	
U.S.A.	2,033	1,091	250	150	3,300	2,035	
Finland	3,132	1,676	---	---	2,865	1,790	
Czecho-slovakia	3,754	2,032	4,419	2,651	---	---	
Sweden	3,840	2,173	8,210	4,926	1,050	683	
Germany	280	147	423	270	13,275	8,920	3/

1/ Yugoslavia, op. cit., 129.
2/ Der Wirtschaftsring, Feb. 28, 1941.
3/ Privredni godisnjak Jugoslavije i prirucnik za trgovinu i promet u jugoistocnoj Evropi, 1939-1940, (An Economic Yearbook of Yugoslavia and Handbook for Trade and Commerce in South East Europe), Dubrovnik, 1940, p. 136.

The names of the more important mining and exporting companies are given in the following table:

PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS

Names	Location
Hromaseo	Skoplje
Hromni rudnik Trnovo	Presevo
Kopaonik	Beograd
Ljuboten a.d. Chrome Mines	Beograd
Presevo Mine	Presevo
Rudarsko-Industrijsko a.d. (Kosovo Mitrovica)	Kosovo 1/

In 1939 Yugoslavia produced 44,000 tons of chrome. 2/ For that year the exports the exports were as follows:

Country	Quantity (in metric tons)	Value (in dinars)
Italy	105	68,250
Hungary	31	20,247
Germany	5,568	4,226,135
Poland	60	39,000
Rumania	45	31,500
U.S.A.	3,048	2,032,000
Finland	2,770	1,800,500
Czecho-Moravian Protectorate	376	240
Switzerland	600	446,250
Sweden	6,096	3,958,440
Total	18,323	12,622,562 3/

Footnotes on following page.

Footnotes to page 3.

1/ Ibid., pp. 159-160

2/ Jozo Tomasevich, "Economic Consequences of Nazi Aggression in Yugoslavia." (Typewritten manuscript supplied by the Yugoslav Legation) p. 21.

3/ Statistika spoljne trgovine Kraljevine Jugoslavije za 1939 godinu (Statistics of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia), Belgrade, 1940, pp. 50-51. Presumably the discrepancy between the figures for total production and total exports for 1939 is due to the trade interruptions caused by the outbreak of war in September 1939.

The production of chrome ore in the period between January and September of 1940 amounted to 50,295 tons. The amount of chrome concentrated during the same period was 9,099 tons. 1/

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1/ Razvoj narodne privrede u Jugoslaviji (Development of National Economy in Yugoslavia), January-September, 1940, Narodna Banka Kraljevine Jugoslavije (National Bank of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia), Belgrade, 1940, p. 15.

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GREECE

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

During the Italian bombardment of Salonika there was some civilian evacuation to the country and to the south. The southern migration increased just before the German occupation. During the first days of the German campaign there was a frantic migration from Thrace and Eastern Macedonia (prompted in part by ~~old~~ new atrocity ~~accusations~~ ? against the Bulgarians) to Old Greece and the islands.1/ Before the German occupation many Greeks escaped to Turkey; some are still trying to do so, in order to join the British army, and because of the food shortage, but such flight is now difficult.2/ Most Greek soldiers were released by the Germans after a short confinement and the movements of population which occurred during the war and subsequent demobilization have now practically ceased. Some people are returning to their homes, although this is difficult because of economic difficulties and the lack of transportation.3/

Considerable numbers of British officers and soldiers, including escaped prisoners and wounded, are being sheltered by Greeks in Macedonia, Athens, and other parts of Greece.

1/ John Johnson, (formerly American Consul, Salonika), "Report on Conditions in the Salonika Consular District," Aug. 8, 1941.

2/ Memorandum of a conversation between E. A. Gullion (formerly American Vice-Consul, Salonika) and Mr. Stevens, Aug. 13, 1941.

3/ Johnson, op. cit.; L. E. Reed (formerly American Charge d'Affaires, Athens), "Current Conditions in Greece, Athens District", Aug. 7, 1941; American Board, "Near East Bulletin No. 15", Aug. 22, 1941.

Occasionally both British and Greek soldiers and officers manage to escape from Greece and rejoin their respective forces. Reports of Imperial British "lost" battalions and Greek guerrillas have appeared in the press.1/

Resentment against the Germans is growing. The first extreme feeling against the Italians is lessening because of the systematic and ruthless looting by the Germans. Early in July daily random mass arrests of civilians occurred in Salonika, presumably designed for intimidation. However, there was no systematic or official anti-Semitism directed against the large Spanish Jew colony in Salonika.2/

As time goes on, a large reduction in the population may be expected as the result of starvation and disease. According to information supplied by persons who have left Greece since the Axis occupation, more than half the population is in dire straits; a great many will not survive the winter. The prospect for children is particularly serious because of the lack of milk, production of which has been cut in half by the slaughter of cattle. Lack of transportation is another factor. Already in July, workmen were fainting in the streets of Athens. By December the number of daily deaths there from starvation was estimated to be

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1/ Johnson, op. cit.; N. Y. Times, Sept. 21, 1941, from a cable received by N. G. Lely, Greek Consul General, N. Y.; PM Aug. 10, 1941.

2/ Ibid.

as high as 800.1/

The almost complete absence of drugs and medical supplies, added to growing malnutrition, is sure to raise the death toll and lead to epidemics. Malaria, already prevalent in the Athens district, is said to be the greatest peril, partly because of the disruption of the Rockefeller sanitation system.2/

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1/ Letter from Lisbon, July 14, 1941; report of Laird Archer (foreign director of the Near East Foundation, who left Greece in August), N. Y. Herald Tribune, Sept. 19, 1941; cable received by Nicholas Lely (Greek Consul General, N. Y.), N. Y. Times, Sept. 21, 1941; Harold Denny, Cairo, ibid. Oct. 19, 1941; A.P., Istanbul, Christian Science Monitor, Dec. 12, 1941.

2/ Report of J. L. White (who left Greece Sept. 15), N. Y. Times, Sept. 26, 1941; statement by Emilie Willms, R. N. (in charge of a military hospital in Athens), ibid., Oct. 9, 1941; Johnson, op. cit.; Reed, op. cit.

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GREECE

RATIONING

The extreme scarcity of all kinds of foodstuffs and other necessities and the complete absence of many articles in Greece is the result of several different factors: insufficient seeding, because of the war; the official and unofficial but systematic and ruthless stripping of the country, its inhabitants and their homes, by the Germans; and lastly, the cutting off of imports upon which Greece depends to a considerable extent even in normal times. Parcels of food and other loot are being sent home by German soldiers; what is left is taken by Italians or is severely rationed--unless it is concealed and sold on the Black Market.

A few food ships have been sent from Turkey. Other relief ships are said to have been sunk. Relief work by American organizations was eventually prohibited by the German authorities because of its effectiveness as anti-Axis propaganda. German and Italian representatives have been assigned to the Greek Food Ministry to assist in the export and import of food, which is to take place chiefly through Italy. 1/ The Berlin Radio claims that the extreme shortage of food and the threat of famine in Greece, caused by the Allied blockade, has been averted by the arrival of

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1/ Radio Athens, quoting Athener Zeitung.

large amounts of all kinds of food from Germany and Italy. 1/

In the beginning there was a brisk turn-over of retail trade, as Greeks were stocking up and Germans were buying actively. Now a shortage of clothing of all kinds is felt. All available stocks of cloth and yarn are gone, shoemakers have no leather, and cigarette stocks have been bought up. The tobacco growing area is now in German or Bulgarian hands. 2/

Fuel - The Greek Government permitted the cutting down of the pine woods near Athens for firewood. Some other trees, including olive groves, were removed to make way for air-dromes. Now the Germans have placed a heavy penalty on any unlicensed wood cutting. Apparently, there can be no solution of the heating problem unless coal can be imported. Some time ago the Athens Power and Light Company was preparing to ration electricity for cooking purposes. The Germans have been known to raid public ovens for food brought there, to be cooked, by people who had no fuel. 3/

Food - One of the first articles seized by the Germans was cooking oils and fats. The sale of olive oil, one of the most necessary ingredients in the Greek diet, has been prohibited; stocks must be declared, producers retaining

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1/ Official German Broadcast to No. America, F.C.C. Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, Dec. 20. For conditions in Greece see a series of articles by Harold Denny, from Cairo, N.Y.Times, Oct. 17,19,20,21, 1941.

2/ L. E. Reed (formerly American Charge d'Affaires, Athens), "Current Conditions in Greece, Athens District", Aug. 7, 1941.

3/ Ibid; L. Archer (foreign director of the Near East Foundation), in N.Y. Herald Tribune, Sept. 19, 1941.

for the balance of the year seven kilograms per family, and non-producers five; all future distribution is to be through the Food Ministry.1/

Apparently fresh vegetables (except podded varieties) and fruits, particularly figs and grapes, were relatively plentiful during the summer, and represented the main, if not only, source of food for poor people. In fact, the Axis authorities ruled that only vegetables could be purchased without a special permit. For starchy vegetables (including potatoes), and for macaroni, eggs, etc., when available, ration cards were required.2/

Certain products, such as meat and beer, are forbidden to Greeks and are reserved in stores and restaurants for Germans. Fish is very scarce. There is no canned meat or fish and the full output of the Athens canning factory has been taken over by the Germans. The output of macaroni factories, likewise, has been pre-empted by the Axis forces.

Bread - The most serious food problem relates to bread. Only about one-half the normal wheat crop was produced because men and draft-animals were in the army. There are almost no imports, and only about one-tenth of the necessary wheat is available.3/ The bread ration has gradually been

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1/ Leipziger Neuste Nachrichten, Aug. 24, 1941; H. Blauvelt, N.Y. Herald Tribune, Nov. 2, 1941.

2/ Bucharester Tageblatt, Aug. 14, 1941; Donau Zeitung (Belgrad), Sept. 13, 1941.

3/ Reported in an interview by Ralph Kent (formerly teacher at Athens College, expelled from Greece some time after the German occupation); also Kent, "I Saw Greece Looted," The Nation, Aug. 16, 1941, pp. 136-8.

reduced almost to the vanishing point. From a normal daily consumption of about a kilogram, the ration dropped to 180 grams, then 60 grams by the end of August. When the ration was cut to 40 grams riots occurred in the Peloponnesus, yet it was later reduced to 30, and prospects were that it might be stopped altogether unless help came. On the other hand, workers for the German military authorities in Athens received double rations.1/

In general, it may be said that shops are empty and that almost no food is obtainable on the open market.

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1/ Reports of Archer, N. Y. Herald Tribune, Sept. 19, 1941; J. L. White, ibid, Sept. 26, 1941; Ralph Kent, op. cit.; Bucharester Tageblatt, Aug. 14, 1941; Donau Zeitung, Sept. 13, 1941; letter from Athens, Aug. 28, 1941; etc.

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GREECE

BLACK MARKETS

The dwindling of supplies resulting in part from the plunder economy of the Germans and the refusal of peasants and other producers to hand over their stocks to the Agricultural Bank for distribution, led to the development of clandestine trading -- "Black Markets". Unable to enforce its decrees because of the inability or unwillingness of the gendarmerie to carry them out, the puppet government had to appeal to the Axis authorities. But the food discovered by the German and Italian collection-detachments is immediately requisitioned by them for their own use. Consequently, the list of things, mostly food, offered on the Black Market grows daily, but so does the price; only the wealthy can trade there, other than by barter. By barter also some supplies for the Black Market are obtained from the peasants.

The following list gives approximate Black Market prices in Athens for certain commodities, if and when obtainable, as of the beginning of September 1941. Quantities are in okas and prices in drachmas.1/

Foods

Flour - 180-230

Wheat - 250-300

1/ The last Bank of Greece rate for drachmas was 122 to the dollar, or 430 to the pound. One oka equals 2.822 lbs. or 1.28 kilograms.

Foods cont.

Bread - 150-300

Olive oil - 520-800 (some sources give 400-450)

Cooking fats - 900 (scarce and bad in quality)

Cheese (domestic) - 350-500 (practically unobtainable)

Meat - 300-400

Vegetables - very scarce

Tomatoes - 50-60

Potatoes - 150

Lentils - 350

Rice - 300-400

Sugar - 600

Fruit - 30 (five times normal price)

Other Commodities

Soap - 350-400

Kerosené - 300 (occasionally obtainable)

Charcoal - 30-40

Firewood - 8

Fuel oil - 88,000 d. per ton (very difficult to obtain)

Gasoline - 4,500 d. per 4-gallon tin (stolen from the Germans)

Shoes - 2,000-3,000 d. per pair

Cloth (for men's suits) - 12,000-15,000 d. per suit-length

Second-hand clothing-sold freely in side streets, but for high prices due to competition between Greeks and Italians

Foreign Currency

American dollar - 720

British pound (paper) - c.2,500

British pound (gold) - 10,000 1/

Unobtainable Commodities

Building Materials - all stocks requisitioned by Germans and Italians

Naval Stores - unobtainable

Underwear - stocks requisitioned by Germans

Household Utensils - stocks bought up by Germans and sent to Germany

Medical Supplies - no stocks; nearly all drug stores closed 2/

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1/ In June the prices were 1,000, 5,600, and 24,000 d. respectively.

2/ The above information comes from a letter from Athens, Aug. 28, 1941; a Greek who escaped from Greece early in September; an American who left Athens during the first week in Sept.; and Nicholas Lely (Greek Consul General, N. Y.), N.Y.Times, Sept. 21, 1941.

GREECE

CORINTH CANAL

A. BOMBING BY ITALIANS

According to the opinion of the Greek Naval Attache in Washington, who took an active part in the Italian campaign, the Corinth Canal could have been successfully bombed by the enemy, had it been their primary objective. At the very start of the war the Italians tried once to bomb the Canal, from a considerable height, but were repelled. Had they persisted, they would have succeeded, as the Greek defenses, consisting of four anti-aircraft guns and some machine guns, were inadequate.

The bridge over the Canal, an important factor in maintaining communications, could have been destroyed if targets had been carefully selected. In order to be prepared for such an eventuality, in case the army were forced to retreat to the Peloponnesus, rafts had been constructed at both ends of the Canal. Only bombs dropped on the edges of the Canal could have been effective in stopping normal Canal communications.

The bombing was never repeated by the Italians, and the Greek naval units with which the above-mentioned Naval Attache was serving, passed several times through the Canal. Thus the Canal continued to be available for military purposes. A well managed bombing attack could easily have destroyed the naval craft in transit through the Canal.

B. BOMBING BY GERMANS

Apparently the Germans bombed numberless objectives; but as far as the Greek Attache knows, they did not bomb the Canal during the earlier part of the campaign. They may have considered other targets more important at first, but during the British retreat the Canal probably was bombed. It is thought likely that the bridge was destroyed by the retreating British, but definite information on German bombing of the Canal and on the condition of the bridge could best be obtained from the Greek Military Staff in Alexandria.

C. BOMBING BY THE BRITISH

In August the British news service disclosed that during the night of August 8-9, a large formation of British heavy bombers concentrated on the Corinth Canal, causing landslides which effectively blocked shipping.1/

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1/ New York Times, August 24, 1941

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AVIATION GASOLINE

Immediately following the German occupation, all petroleum stocks were requisitioned and a Petroleum Commissioner, a German army officer with a thorough knowledge of his subject, was appointed.

There are no refineries in Greece. Petroleum property and distributing facilities have been either confiscated, purchased or leased, or are otherwise controlled by the Germans.

No information on aviation gasoline is available.1/

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1/ For further details see G. L. Jones (American Assistant Commercial Attache, Athens) "Notes on the German Army's method of acquiring property in Greece", June 5, the substance of which was reported by Harold Denny from Cairo, "High Nazis Linked to Greek Looting", N.Y.Times, Oct. 21, 1941.

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Movements, Greece 6.17.1
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Food conservation " 2.19.1

" shortage " 2.19.3
" "

Disease " gen. 0.19
"
Illegal act. " black market 6.18
"
Exchange " 2.21.11
"
Air raids " 5.1.1
Transp. & com " waterways 2.16
"
Petroleum " 2.19
" "